

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 15-21 stand allowed.

Claims 2-13, 15-21 and 23-31 stand allowed.

Claims 1, 14 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kumar et al US Patent No. 6,097,954. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 14 and 22 to overcome the Kumar reference, as set forth below.

Independent Claim 1, requires and positively recites, in a spread spectrum communications integrated circuit receiver supplying combiner channel assignments for a plurality of demodulated information channels in a sample stream, a system comprising: “a plurality of demodulating fingers” and “wherein each demodulating finger has an input to accept a sample stream, an input to accept an uncovering code, an **input to accept combiner channel assignments**, an output to supply soft symbols associated with demodulated information channels, and an output to supply combiner channel assignments for associated soft symbols”.

Independent Claim 14 requires and positively recites, in a spread spectrum communications demodulating finger integrated circuit to supply combiner channel assignments for a plurality of demodulated information channels in a sample stream, the demodulating finger comprising: “an input to accept a sample stream”, “an input to accept an uncovering code”, “**an input to accept combiner channel assignments**”, “an output to supply soft symbols from demodulated information channels” and “an output to supply combiner channel assignments for the soft symbols”.

Independent Claim 22 requires and positively recites, in a spread spectrum communications integrated circuit receiver, a method for supplying combiner channel assignments for a plurality of demodulated information channels in a sample stream, the method comprising: “accepting a sample stream”, “accepting an uncovering code”, “**accepting**

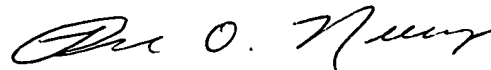
combiner channel assignments”, “demodulating information channels in the sample stream” and “supplying combiner channel assignments with the soft symbols of the demodulated information channels”.

In contrast, Kumar discloses an apparatus in which input fingers 42-1 to 42-3 each having one input coupled to controller 40 and another input coupled to antenna 34. Kumar fails to teach or suggest, “wherein each demodulating finger has an input to accept a sample stream, an input to accept an uncovering code, an **input to accept combiner channel assignments**, an output to supply soft symbols associated with demodulated information channels, and an output to supply combiner channel assignments for associated soft symbols”, as required by Claim 1, as amended, or “an input to accept a sample stream”, “an input to accept an uncovering code” and “**an input to accept combiner channel assignments**”, as required by Claim 14, as amended, or “accepting a sample stream”, “accepting an uncovering code” and “**accepting combiner channel assignments**”, as required by Claim 22, as amended. Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of Claims 1, 14 and 22 over Kumar are overcome.

An amendment after a final rejection should be entered when it will place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. 37 C.F.R. 1.116; MPEP 714.12. This amendment places the case in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-13, 15-21 and 23-31 stand allowed. In light of the present amendment, Claims 1, 14 and 22 stand allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the application as the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,



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